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P 022100Z MAY 69
FM NPIC WASHDC
TO RHCOAAA/SAC OFFUTT AFB OMAHA NEB
RHCOAAA/544TH ARTW OFFUTT AFB OMAHA NEB
RUCILBA/100TH SRW OL 19 MCCOY AFB FLA
RUWMODA/100TH SRW DAVIS MONTHAN AFB ARIZ
RUWMODA/12 SAD DAVIS MONTHAN AFB ARIZ
RUEBJRA/NAVRECONTECHSUPPCEN SUITLAND MD
RUEAIIA/CIA WASH DC
RUEOJFA/DIA
RUWBKNA/15TH AF MARCH AFB RIVERSIDE CALIF
RUEFHQA/HQS USAF
BT
S E C R E T CITE NPIC 6231.
15TH (FOR DI, DO, DM4C); SAC (FOR GLASS LAMP, DOSR, DM4C, DIR, DISD, DISR); 100TH SRW (FOR DO, DCOI, DCM, AEMS); 12 SAD (FOR DM); USAF FOR AFIGOS [redacted] DIA FOR DIAXX-2.
FROM NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER.
REF: DIAXX-2 7547 APR 1969

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PAGE 2 RUEADJU 0009 S E C R E T
SUBJECT: LOW GAMMA PROCESSING OF GLASS LAMP MATERIAL
1. A DETAILED IMAGE QUALITY COMPARISON OF MISSION MATERIALS PROCESSED IN MX578 WITH THAT PROCESSED IN LOW GAMMA CHEMISTRY IS NOT PRACTICAL. THE MINOR QUALITY DIFFERENCES ASSOCIATED WITH PROCESSING CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THOSE DIFFERENCES ASSOCIATED WITH DEGRADING FACTORS SUCH AS ATMOSPHERICS, CAMERA PERFORMANCE VARIABLES, ETC. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, CAN BE MADE.
A. MOST MISSIONS FLOWN IN THIS PROGRAM ARE OVEREXPOSED NEAR THE END OF THE MISSION. THE CONSEQUENCES OF OVEREXPOSURE ARE MINIMIZED BY THE USE OF LOW GAMMA CHEMISTRY.
B. A DISTINCT LOSS OF CONTRAST IS APPARENT IN THE MATERIALS PROCESSED IN LOW GAMMA CHEMISTRY COMPARED TO THOSE PROCESSED IN MX578. THIS LOSS OF CONTRAST MAKES TARGET DETECTION MUCH MORE DIFFUCULT DURING MISSION SCANNING. IN ADDITION, OBJECT IDENTIFICATION BY MEANS OF SHADOW FORM IS MORE DIFFUCULT ON LOW CONTRAST POSITIVES.
C. WHEN HAZE CONDITIONS PREVAIL, A GREATER LOSS OF DETAIL IS APPARENT IN THE MATERIALS PROCESSED WITH LOW GAMMA CHEMISTRY THAN IN THE PRODUCTS PROCESSED IN MX578.

ADVANCE CY SANITIZED WITH TEXT

PAGE 3 RUEADJU 0009 S E C R E T
2. FROM PARAGRAPHS B AND C ABOVE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT LOW GAMMA PROCESSING HAS A DEGRADING EFFECT ON THE EXPLOITATION OF GLASS LAMP MISSION MATERIAL. TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE FINDINGS IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE NEXT OPERAIONAL GLASS LAMP MISSION BE PROCESSED IN BOTH CHEMISTRIES, I.E., THE RIGHT SIDE IN MX578 AND THE LEFT SIDE IN MX819, FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES. IF THIS CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED THEN THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES ARE SUGGESTED.
A. A POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENT IN PROCESSING OF THE POSITIVE TO PROVIDE HIGHER CONTRAST.
B. REVERT TO MX578 CHEMISTRY FOR GLASS LAMP NEGATIVE PROCESSING.
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S E C RE T
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Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification